

## Navigator support appreciated



When Brian Semmens looks out at night, he's very pleased to see more lights on in his neighbourhood.

Brian and his partner are living in an MBIE-supplied portacabin on their flood-affected Edgcombe property, awaiting their home repair. He says that after what felt like 'forever', he's relieved to see that others' fences and decks are going up and that people are moving back into homes and re-establishing the community he's lived in since 1981.

Brian has made contact with the Recovery Navigator service, which helped him to negotiate a concern he had with his insurance provider. "Cheryl knew I was worried and she let me know about the folks who were up from Community Law in Christchurch. They knew things I didn't and got progress rolling."

Anyone wanting to contact the Recovery Navigators, please call Whakatāne District Council on 306 0500 or email: [NavigatorServices@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:NavigatorServices@whakatane.govt.nz)

Brian Semmens (with Petaa) is relieved his home repair is progressing, after help from Community Law Service.

## Rangitāiki River Scheme Review

On Tuesday, Sir Michael Cullen presented the findings of the independent review of the Rangitāiki River Scheme to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The full report can be viewed on the Regional Council website and there is a link to the report on [whakatane.govt.nz/recovery-project](http://whakatane.govt.nz/recovery-project). A reading copy of the 163-page report is available at Te Tari Āwhina – Community Hub at Edgcombe Library, or at Customer Services at WDC, Commerce Street, Whakatāne.

## RAS lends a hand

*Need help to finalise your insurance claim?*

The District Recovery Office has negotiated the support of the Christchurch-based Residential Advisory Service (RAS) to provide additional free legal support for people yet to settle their home insurance claims. Representatives of Canterbury Community Law will be adding their expertise to the Baywide Community Law service. If you want to connect with this service, please call in or phone Te Tari Āwhina – Community Hub at Edgcombe Library, 07 304 8656 or talk to a Navigator.

## The America's Cup is coming to Edgcombe!

Monday, 9 October, from 12-2pm  
Riverslea Park, Rata Ave, Edgcombe

Meet members of Emirates Team New Zealand and welcome the America's Cup to Edgcombe.

- School Holiday activities from 11am
- Questions/ answers and photo op's
- Heaps of local business stalls
- Food and coffee stalls

Join in the fun at this once-only event - and help get Edgcombe businesses back on their feet.

[whakatane.com](http://whakatane.com)



## Edgcombe Movie Night

**TONIGHT // FREE ENTRY**

Food for sale from 6pm

6.30pm Family Movie – My Pet Dinosaur (G)  
8.00pm Guardians of the Galaxy (PG13)

Reserve next to Edgcombe War Memorial Hall

Bring your own chair, blanket and pillow!

For more info contact Cheyne, Ph: 027 948 5345



Next week is Mental Health Awareness week – a great time to think about the Five Ways to Wellbeing.



Your time, your words, your presence



DO WHAT YOU CAN, ENJOY WHAT YOU DO, MOVE YOUR MOOD



EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES, SEE OPPORTUNITIES, SURPRISE YOURSELF



TALK & LISTEN, BE THERE, FEEL CONNECTED



REMEMBER THE SIMPLE THINGS THAT GIVE YOU JOY

INTRODUCE THESE SIMPLE STRATEGIES INTO YOUR LIFE AND YOU WILL FEEL THE BENEFITS. [www.mentalhealth.org.nz](http://www.mentalhealth.org.nz)

## Schools update

Year 5 & 6 pupils at Edgecumbe Primary made the most of the relatively dry weather in the last week of term to get stuck in to replanting the school's community garden. The Onepū Garden Club and McGregor's donated plants and seeds to the project; just one example of the generosity extended to Edgecumbe schools since April.

Principal Kahu Walker says support has come in countless forms, including from colleagues in Kaikoura who sent care packages to every child. "They said they've been through a disaster situation and they were paying it forward. It was really humbling."

Next door, at Edgecumbe College, where some classrooms and the gymnasium still await repair, Deputy Principal Rene Otto says they too have been overwhelmed with the generosity they've received. "Straightaway, Edgecumbe Lions gave us funds to feed people working in recovery; more recently 60 Bunnings staff members from all over the motu held a working bee at the school; and local woman Kim McClure arranged the donation of all manner of goods."

Both schools say that students are coping well under the circumstances, but staff are preparing for continued challenges in Term 4. Mr Walker says some children are starting to show signs of having 'pretty short fuses' but the wrap-around services provided by NASH and Ministry of Education social workers is invaluable. Mr Otto says the immediate task is finding a venue for end-of-year exams and assessments, particularly for phys-ed and music.



*Edgecumbe Primary Principal Kahu Walker, teacher Daniele Cuthbert-Davies and Year 5 & 6 pupils exercise their green fingers.*

## Riverslea Mall update

The rebuild of Riverslea Mall continues to progress with tenants moving back as staged repairs are completed.

Mall owner Dave Grindley said contractors are currently working hard on the west side of the complex in preparation for the return of the medical centre from its temporary premises in Te Teko.

"The Temple Gym is hoping to be back before the end of the month. They've been working hard to get the doors open to the Edgecumbe community."

Central Vape owner Phil Turner re-opened his store on 23 September and says it's great to be back.

"As soon as I was able, I was in," Mr Turner says. "I get asked about five times a day when the supermarket will be open. People are definitely looking forward to having their mall back."

Absolute Physio owner Tab Kang said she was pleased to have a mid-October date to move back in.

"It's been a long time coming, but I'm very excited." She says she did have concerns about the community thinking the entire mall remained a construction site, so will be doing her best to let people know she's back.

Eastern Bay Curtains 4 U owner Paula Hind is eagerly awaiting being able to return to the Mall. "We're just waiting and hoping it's very soon. We want to open and we just want to sew."

## Te Tari Āwhina update

The Recovery team is very grateful for the continued use of the Lions Reading Room at Edgecumbe Library. Since May, the room has been the busy office for the Liveable Homes Project, and as that draws to a very successful conclusion, the space has become a base for the Recovery Navigators.

Repairs on seven of the 17 homes registered with the Liveable Homes Project are now finished, with the balance due for completion by the end of October. Any questions about the LHP will now be managed through the Recovery Office at the Council, 07 306 0500.

## Bring on the decent weather...

We don't need to tell you it's been a wet few months; and next time the rain interrupts your plans, spare a thought for those trying to dry out a home. Met Service confirms that it has rained on 45% of days – 85 – since April ☀ but the good news is the weather forecasters are predicting a drier than normal October.



The face may not have been familiar, but the voice certainly was. In July, Brian Elliott (left, from the Whakatane District Council) was the voice on the telephone to Luke Ruiterman and his family during a long and rainy night as they took refuge from the flooding that inundated their homes. When they met face to face for the first time, the heavens duly turned on the rain again, but it couldn't dampen the occasion.

Mr Ruiterman, who is a member of the Tāneatua Community Board, is waiting patiently for the repair of one of two flood-affected homes on his Reid's Road property and feels for the people who are still negotiating housing matters.

Fifty-two properties across Tāneatua, Rūātoki and Poroporo required repair after the April events.